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CLASSIFICATION ~~SECRET/CONTROL/US OFFICIALS~~COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

REPORT

TOPIC Laerz Airfield

EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 20 April 1951

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. On 21 March 1951 at 11 a.m., a convoy of eleven trucks was seen in Vietzen (N 54/U 33) coming from the direction of Rechlin (N 54/U 33) and moving toward Roebel (N 54/U 24). [redacted]

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[redacted] Each truck was occupied by about eight to ten airforce soldiers, some of whom had pilot insignia. The convoy returned at about 5:30 p.m.

2. On 21 March there was intensive flying at the Laerz (N 54/U 33) airfield. The ceiling was lifting and there was a wind from the west. The aircraft assembled in formations of five, six, and eight, then flew in a wedge formation or a right file.

3. On 22 March, the field was observed from all sides between 1:30 and 5 p.m. There were 44 MIG-15s at the field, including nine [redacted]

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[redacted] Five additional jet aircraft flew continually. In addition there were seven single-engine low-wing monoplanes, [redacted] and one single-engine high-wing monoplane.

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4. About seven of the 24 jet planes, which were parked south of the H-S runway, had no rudder assemblies. North of this dispersal area there were six aircraft crates which were previously seen. [redacted]

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[redacted] observed all of the aircraft at the field [redacted] no other dispersal areas were located south of the flight control station, north of the E-W runway, or near the fuel dump in the woods east of the field. (1)

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5. On 22 March 51 take-offs were made on the H-S runway. There was a wind from north-northwest and the ceiling was lifting. The planes took off in elements of two. Formation flights were made. At 3 p.m., immediately after a short detonation, two planes, probably jet aircraft, took off on the H-S runway. After flying about 500 meters, both planes climbed to an altitude of about 1,000 to 1,500 meters at an angle of approximately 45 to 50 degrees. There was white smoke plume trailing from the planes. No further details could be seen since the take-off speed

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was considerably faster than usually observed on the jet aircraft. The planes were probably jet aircraft with rocket starting devices.

6. On 21 and 23 March, a total of 21 railroad tank cars from Mirow (N 54/U 33) arrived at the Ellerholz railroad station and were shunted to the loading ramp. Shortly after the arrival of the train, tank trucks arrived from Rechlin and were filled from the tank cars. Seven of the tank trucks []

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[] the latter two canou-
flagged. Each tank truck had a capacity of about 1,000 to 4,500 liters. Each tank car had a shipping label [] as receiver and Velten (N 54/Z 66) and Gross Hasslow (N 54/U 21) as their dispatch station. (3) On 22 March, six four-wheeled railroad tank cars were seen on the spur track of the Laerz airfield. The fuel was being emptied from the tank cars into tank trucks, which then left toward the dump in the woods east of the field. On the afternoon of 23 March, six empty railroad tank cars went toward Mirow.

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7. Between 20 and 23 March, passenger car [] jeeps [] and trucks [] were seen entering and leaving the field. (4)

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[] Comments.

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- (1) The airfield is occupied by two fighter regiments. Forty-nine MiG-15s is the largest number yet counted in Laerz. The information that this is the total occupation of the field cannot be verified. To date, 44 aircraft numbers have been observed. Therefore, it is believed that about 60 MiG-15s are stationed in Laerz.
- (2) [] an additional rocket starting device was used is believed to be correct because of the short take-off distance, the large angle of climb and the smoke. Similar take-offs have not been seen at other airfields in the Soviet Zone of Germany. No details about the performance of the rockets or the method whether the rockets are fitted on or in the planes are known.
- (3) The fuel was dispatched from the Velten air force fuel dump. Gross-Hasslow is the receiving station for Laerz airfield.
- (4) The motor vehicle [] confirm the air force units presently stationed at the field.

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